Introduction

Here is an enjoyable miming game to help students practice the present perfect for giving news about recent events.

Procedure

Introduce the phrase: How have you been?

Ask different students the question and write their replies on the board.

Elicit which phrases they would use to express feeling good and bad. If need be, introduce the two phrases 'Pretty good' and 'Not too good'.

Next, divide the students into groups of four and give each group a set of cards.

Tell the students to shuffle the cards and place them in a pile face down on the desk.

Students take it in turns to take a card from the top of the pack, without showing it to anyone.

A group member then asks the student 'How have you been?'

The student with the card replies with either 'Pretty good' or 'Not too good', depending on whether their card represents good news or bad news.

The student must then be silent and mime the present perfect sentence on their card using actions and gestures.

The other students try to guess the news.

The first student to say the present perfect sentence on the card wins and keeps the card.

The student with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.
You've gotten married.  
Your wallet has been stolen.  
You've bought a house.  
You've won the lottery.  
You've failed an exam.  
You've lost your keys.  
You've passed your driving test.  
You've received a promotion.  
You've been to the dentist.  
Your house has burnt down.  
You've been on holiday.  
Your dog has run away.  
You've fallen in love.  
You've crashed your car.  
You've split up with your partner.